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July 25, 1996

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

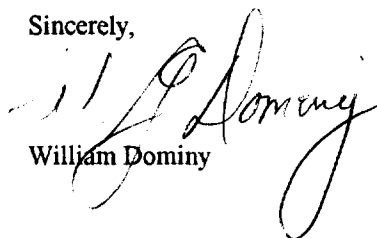
Re: CC Docket 96-45 Universal Service

I'm writing to urge your strong support for discounted telecommunications discounts that will empower libraries and schools to fulfill their role as universal service providers as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this legislation, it is clear that Congress recognized the key role of libraries in providing public access to the electronic information infrastructure and to ensure that carriers would provide services to libraries and schools at rates less than those charged to other parties.

If libraries are to provide the public with an expanded range of information opportunities, they must have the capacity for high bandwidth interactive and visual applications. Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology. They have in the past and will continue to leverage every bit of help. Meaningful discounts to the full range of telecommunication services available commercially will enable libraries to continue and expand their services in communities and in schools. Libraries in low income, rural and other high cost areas may need special provision.

I know that you are hearing from many parties about how the Federal Communications Commission and the Joint Board should implement the universal service provisions. I strongly urge you to give serious attention to libraries and the proposals they are making directly and through the American Library Association.

Sincerely,



William Dominy

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Thomas Eckersley

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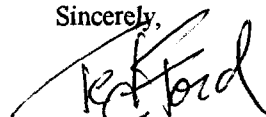
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Ted Ford

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Patricia Wolfe

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Mary Smallman

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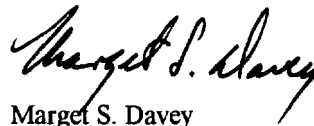
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Marget S. Davey

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Sincerely,

Lora Jones

Lora Jones

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Sincerely,



Barry Worczak

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July 24, 1996

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla S. Roberts".

Carla S. Roberts

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Barbara Wortman
Barbara Wortman

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FAX: (405) 329-7189

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Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing you to urge your strong support of discounted telecommunications discounts that will empower libraries and schools to fulfill their role as universal service providers as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this vital legislation, it is clear that Congress recognized the key role of libraries in providing public access to the electronic infrastructure in their communities.

If libraries are to provide the public with an expanded range of information opportunities, they must have the capacity for high bandwidth interactive and visual applications. At the Pioneer Library System, nine public libraries serve 255,000 customers in a 1,900 square mile, 3-county library system. The computer system provides a library of 325,000 items to each customer whether they are in our largest library in Norman or our smallest library in McCloud. We serve customers of all ages. We serve customers from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and educational experiences.

Access to electronic resources is vital for providing the most accurate, up-to-date information available to our consumers. Our information services librarians help customers use the Internet and World Wide Web to locate information about consumer health issues, business/financial questions, information about other countries, homework assistance, and federal, state, and local agency programs and services.

Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology. They have in the past and will continue to leverage every bit of help. Meaningful discounts to the full range of telecommunications services available commercially will enable libraries to continue and expand their services in communities such as those served by the Pioneer Library System.

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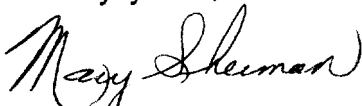
CP96-45

Recently we have asked our customers how they are using our electronic resources via the computer. Listen to the words of Kendal Copeland, Shawnee, who likes Fedworld (www.fedworld.gov) the National Technical Information Service site for accessing U.S. Government Information online: "There is a vast, seemingly infinite amount of information about the federal government related agencies and government publications." Jack Kanak, Norman, enjoys the ability to get free stock market quotations on stocks and options from sites like PC Quote (www.pcquote.com), and the CNN Financial Network (<http://cnfn.com/markets/quotes.html>). Dylan McClung from Norman uses www.popularmechanics.com. "It gives me all I need to know about how things work and the latest technology."

WeatherNet (<http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/index2.html>) is one of the top choices of Jackie Heberer, Norman, for access to thousands of forecasts, images, and the Net's largest collection of weather links. Nancy Peay of Norman found the email address of her U.S. Senator.

I know that you are hearing from many parties about how the Federal Communications Commission and Joint Board should implement the universal services provisions. I strongly urge you to give serious attention to libraries and the proposals they are making directly and through the American Library Association.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Sherman
Director
Pioneer Library System

MS:vyt

cc: Andrew Magpantay
Office of Information Technology Policy

